

— Winter/Spring 2015 —

THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES . . .

Where History Begins



Special Genealogy Issue

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Where History Begins

Contents

- 3** From the State Archivist
- 4** What's In a Name?
- 6** Land Records at the Missouri State Archives
- 8** Picture This: O. T. Honey Collection
- 10** Divided Loyalties: The 18th Regiment at Shiloh
- 11** Calendar of Events
- 12** Friends Annual Meeting
- 13** NGS 2015 Family History Conference
- 14** Donations

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The Friends of the Missouri State Archives

The purpose of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives is to render support and assistance to the Missouri State Archives. As a not-for-profit corporation, the Friends organization is supported by memberships and gifts.

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On the Cover

Family reunion, Dent County, Missouri, c. 1930s.
Photograph by Charles Elliott Gill, Missouri State Archives.



From the State Archivist



To all the National Genealogical Society Conference attendees receiving this in their registration packets, “Welcome to the Crossroads of America!” We are thrilled to have you back in Missouri, and proud to be the home of numerous world-class research institutions. We hope your research leads you to one of these facilities, either on this trip or in the future.

Of course, my own personal favorite, the Missouri State Archives, prides itself on its reference service and award-winning website, MissouriDigitalHeritage.com, both of which are valuable resources for genealogists conducting research in the state. To supplement these tools, we hope several articles in this issue of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives’ newsletter will be useful in your research. Whatever your genealogical needs, the Missouri State Archives is here to help!

Missouri’s roles as the “Gateway to the West” and “Crossroads of America” figure largely into many family histories. In the past, you may have flown into Kansas City or St. Louis on your way across country, or vacationed along Route 66 during its heyday, but Missouri has been one of America’s most important transportation hubs throughout its history. If your ancestors traveled by rail in the late 19th or early 20th centuries, there is a good chance they passed along at least one of the more than 100 railroads that once crossed our state. With all or parts of the Boonslick, Santa Fe, Oregon and California trails, as well as the Pony Express and Butterfield Overland Mail Route, Missouri truly was the crossroads of frontier America. Even earlier, St. Louis and St. Charles flourished at the intersection of America’s original two interstate highways, the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Merchant activities along all these routes attracted groups of immigrants to Missouri’s cities, large and small. Some stayed for a few short years, others for generations.

Although Missouri is certainly deserving of the above monikers, I would be remiss if I did not encourage my fellow genealogists to use the state’s official nickname, “The Show-Me State,” as the standard in their genealogical research. Show your research! Show your verification! Show your documentation! And enjoy every minute of the journey—especially your time in Missouri!

John Dungan



Depending on your temperament, deciphering 19th century handwriting can be a fun puzzle, or the bane of your existence. In either case, chances are that you will come across such script when researching your family history.

Before the 20th century, handwriting was highly stylized: at best, beautiful to look at; at worst, nearly impossible to read. Beginning with the "Age of Commerce" in the 17th century, the demand for quick and efficient paperwork led to the common use of cursive handwriting, taking over from the meticulous, time-consuming calligraphy often seen in the legal documents and official paperwork of the previous era. Many styles of handwriting developed during this period, both simple and ornate, reflecting the class, occupation or gender of the writer.

Until a movement to standardize spelling in the late 19th century, words were spelled just like they sounded and regional dialects affected spelling from one location to another. Words and proper names can often be decoded by comparing the individual letters in a word you don't know with others in the same document that you do.

Keep in mind that proper names were spelled in unusual and inconsistent ways. Although most people in the 19th century had names with which we are still familiar, you may occasionally come across obscure Biblical names and unusual name abbreviations.

One of the most interesting changes since the 19th century is the lower case double letter "s," or "ss." A double "s" in a word often began with a "leading s," a strange symbol that looks like a cursive "f". In a word with a double "s," this symbol is usually followed by a regular "s," e.g., "Ross" looks like "Rojs" and "Clarissa" looks like "Clarijsa."

To save space and time, people who wrote letters, official papers and legal documents sometimes used abbreviations that occasionally look like 20th century shorthand. Lines appear over, under or through abbreviations depending on the author's personal style. Normally you do not find a period at the end of an abbreviation if the last letter of the name is part of the abbreviation, e.g., "Alexr" for Alexander. Contrarily, a colon can sometimes indicate there are letters missing from the end of a name, e.g., "Kath:" for Katherine.

Interpreting 19th century handwriting will become easier the more time you spend with it. As your skills improve, you will start to recognize specific abbreviations and uses characteristic of particular individuals. Just keep at it, and eventually reading 19th century handwriting will become second nature!

To practice your skills, consider volunteering to transcribe historic records through the Missouri State Archives' eVolunteer program. For additional information, contact the program coordinator at archvol@sos.mo.gov.

Common First Name Abbreviations for Mijs [Missouri!]

Abraham

Abm Abm. Abr^m

Alexander

Alex.^r Alex.

Andrew

And^w And.

Benjamin

Benⁿ Benja

Catherine, Katherine

Cath. Kath.

Charles

Ch^e Chas.

Christian

Chrisⁿ

Christopher

X^pher Chris.^r K. T^epher

Daniel

Dan^e

Danil

Edward or Edwin

Edw.

Ed:

What's in a Name?

Elizabeth

Eliz., E. liza.

Ephraim

Eph^m Eph.

Ezekiel

Ez.

George

Geo. Geo.

Florence

Flo Floⁿ

Frances

Fr^a: Fran:

Francis

Fr^a. Fran.

Frederick

Fred., Fred^k

Henry

Hen: Hen^e Hy.

Gabriel

Gabl Gabⁿ

James

Ja: Jas

Jean-Baptiste

J. B^{te}. J. B^{te}.

Jeremiah

Jer^h.

Jerome

ger Jr^e

John

Jon

Joseph

Joe Jos.

Michael

Michl

Margaret

Marg., Marg^t

Mathias

Math^s

Nathaniel

Nathⁿ

Nicholas

Nicks Nick^e Nicol^s

Richard

Rich^d Rich:

Robert

Rob^t

Samuel

Sam^l

Stephen

Stepⁿ

Solomon

Sole So

Thomas

Thos Tho: The

William

W^m W^m Wille Willm

Zachariah

Zach^a

Senior

Sen^r

Junior

Jun^r

Handwriting samples generously provided by Erin Kraus,
Emily Luker and Diane McKinney.

Back to the Salt Mines: Land Records at the Missouri State Archives

Unlike more straightforward genealogical records like marriages and wills, land records often require some digging to uncover the gems—or, in the case of Henri Peyroux, the salt.

Land records held at the Missouri State Archives comprise two main groups: French and Spanish Land Grants from before the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and United States Land Sales thereafter. These records document only the first sale from the government, not subsequent sales, which are instead found in the deed records of the county where the land then lay.

French and Spanish Land Grants

Land claimed under the French and Spanish before the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 had to be confirmed once the territory became part of the United States.

Claimants submitted various documents in proof of their purchase to a board of commissioners selected to confirm claims. Because the first board turned down many claimants, a later board was convened and, even thereafter, claimants could appeal to the court system, with some cases dragging well into the late 19th century.

The plats of survey, or the visual representation of the land on a map, are usually of most interest to genealogists, but other records may be worth the effort to find, including concessions, permissions to settle, deeds, affidavits and correspondence. Many records are in French or Spanish but transcriptions can often be found in the American State Papers available in many libraries and archives, including the Missouri State Archives.

During the French and Spanish era, surveys were made in French arpents instead of acres and were usually irregular in shape, following rivers and natural boundaries that could change over time in a system called metes and bounds.

The Missouri State Archives has a particularly rich collection of French and Spanish land records.

- **Board of Land Commissioners:** Papers of Original Claimants (First and Second Board finding aids available online at www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/findingaids/default.asp); Certificates; Minute Books (7 indexed volumes);

Correspondence; and Record Books of Land Titles A-F (missing Volume E).

- **Registre d'Arpentage:** A volume of early surveys also known as the Soulard Surveys created between 1798 and 1806 (available online at www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh_splash/default.asp?coll=registre)

- **Surveyor General:** Individual Private Land Surveys (some missing); Survey Record Books (many books fill in the gap for missing individual private surveys); and Plats and Field Notes (also include later records).



Saline Creek Salt Works, 1806. Papers of Original Claimants for Henri Peyroux, Missouri State Archives.



In the case of Henri Peyroux de la Coudrenière, commandant of Ste. Genevieve between 1787 and 1796, a wealth of French and Spanish records exist for the salt works ("La Saline") and surrounding land he claimed on the Saline River. A series of French deeds link these lands back to a petition from de Gruy Verloins and concession on the Saline River from Monsieurs le Chavelier de Bertet and de la Lacre Flaucourt originally dated May 8, 1744.

The later concession by the lieutenant governor of Upper Louisiana, Manuel Pérez, to Henri Peyroux was made on December 24, 1787. The plat of survey of 9,077 arpents and 80 perches (7,760 acres) was made on February 22, 1806, by

John Hawkins and shows not only several buildings, but also a woman in an apron, the only drawing of a person known to be in the land records.

An affidavit made before the first board of commissioners gives more details about Peyroux's claim: "John Baptiste Vallé, a witness, aged about seventy-two years... deposeth and saith that he was well acquainted with Henry Peyroux... [who] was civil and military commandant at the post and district of St. Genevieve... And this deponent further says that he is well acquainted with the tract of land claimed... [which was] used as a saline, where much salt, for the use of the country, was made... that there were several farms on the same, and many buildings and houses, with furnaces for the making of salt..." (*American State Papers* [1860], Volume VII, pages 804-805)

Unfortunately for Henri Peyroux, the first board voted on December 27, 1811, to deny his claim. However, over two decades later, his legal representatives brought the claim before the second board, which voted to confirm it on October 13, 1834.

United States Land Sales

For lands claimed or purchased in Missouri after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the Missouri State Archives has fewer original records. Many of the records the Archives does have, however, are on microfilm and an index is available online. Unlike the metes and bounds system of natural boundaries used by the French and Spanish, the new territory of Missouri was surveyed using a rectangular system.

Measured from a principal meridian, the newly available land was sectioned off into townships, ranges and sections, all aligned to the points of the compass. Each township was roughly six miles square and divided into 36 sections, which could be further subdivided as needed.

The Archives has some original records for public land sales, but most are at the federal level.

- **New Madrid Earthquake Claims (1815-1827):** Original records of certificates of relocation and Testimony (indexed by name, but with difficult handwriting).

(continued on page 13)



Picture This

By Amy Moorman, Visual Materials Archivist

Oscar T. Honey Collection

In 1920, Oscar T. Honey, a musician and soldier from Chaffee, Missouri, organized the 140th Infantry Regimental Band to accompany the 6th Infantry Regiment at the Missouri State Fair. In subsequent years, this became the 140th Infantry Band, and Lieutenant Honey remained its sole director until the unit disbanded in 1941. Trained as a musician since the age of six, Lt. Honey directed his first band at 13, eventually traveling throughout Missouri as a member of the Barnum & Bailey Circus Band, the United Railway Band of St. Louis and others. He ultimately served 27 years in the Missouri National Guard, most of which time he spent as the director of the 140th Infantry Regimental Band.

Founded in June of 1898, and mustered into federal service the following month, the 140th served in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. It was then reorganized in June 1917 and assigned to the 35th Infantry Division in Nevada, Missouri. The 140th Infantry Regiment today constitutes the Missouri Regional Training Institute (MO-RTI), based out of Fort Leonard Wood.

The Missouri State Archives' Oscar T. Honey Collection consists primarily of photographs and scrapbooks detailing the history of the 140th Infantry Band during the 1920s and '30s, and its frequent encampments at Camp Clark in Nevada, Missouri. It also includes photographs of the band at other military encampments, such as Camp Whiteside in Fort Riley, Kansas; images and memorabilia related to the band and its performances around Missouri; and personal photographs from throughout Honey's life.

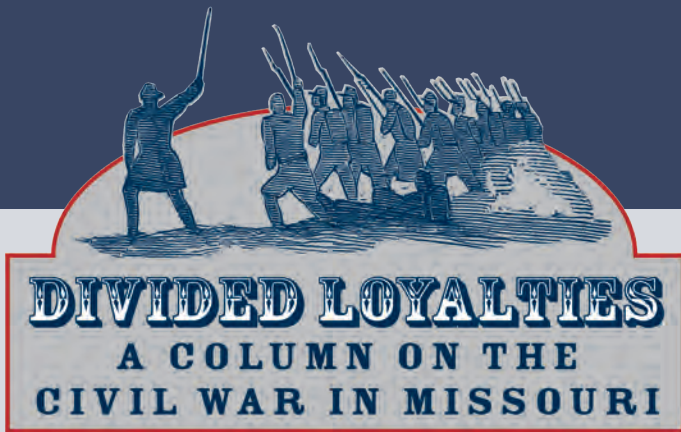
A finding aid for the Oscar T. Honey Collection with an item-level index is available online at www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/findingaids/default.asp.



Above: Oscar T. Honey.
The images on these two pages are believed to come from Camp Clark, though most are not labeled with date or location. Missouri State Archives.







One hundred fifty-three years ago, Missourians fought on both sides in what was the bloodiest battle in U.S. history to that point.

THE 18TH REGIMENT AT SHILOH

One hundred fifty-three years ago, Missourians fought on both sides in what was the bloodiest battle in U.S. history to that point. In the early morning hours of Sunday, April 6, 1862, three companies of the 25th Regiment Infantry, Missouri Volunteers, and a detachment of the 12th Regiment Infantry, Michigan Volunteers, clashed with Confederate forces near Pittsburg Landing, south of Savannah, Tennessee. That initial clash escalated into two days of fierce fighting in which the Union suffered 13,097 casualties—1,754 killed, 8,409 wounded and 2,885 missing—and Confederate casualties totaled 10,699—1,728 killed, 8,012 wounded and 959 missing or captured.

On the Union side, the 18th Regiment Infantry, Missouri Volunteers sustained especially heavy losses among its officers and staff, with 22 killed, mortally wounded or missing in action. Many of those missing were taken prisoner, including Colonel Madison Miller and Lieutenant Colonel I.V. Pratt. Of the rank and file, 19 were killed, 124 were missing and 60 were wounded. An additional 66 men died of disease and 28 deserted after the battle. Among the deserters was regimental surgeon, Norman A. Hamlin, who "left on Tuesday after the battle 8th April with the consolation that we must do the best we can." After Major James A. Price resigned in July, the regiment was commanded by Captain Jacob R. Ault, who warned that the surviving members of the regiment were "getting clamorous for home [,] they hear of the sesech's depredations in Missouri and I am realy [sic] afraid that if we do not get to go back to protect our homes there will be trouble here in camp..."

The depleted 18th Regiment was subsequently placed under the command of Michigan officers by Major General U.S. Grant, commander of the Army of the Tennessee, which prompted an exasperated Henry Halleck, Grant's superior, to apologize to Missouri Governor Hamilton Gamble. Additional information on the 18th Regiment Infantry and other Missouri Volunteer regiments are in the records of the Adjutant General at the Missouri State Archives.

<p><i>A List of Commissioned Officers of the 18th Missouri Col.-Infantry Killed, wounded and missing in action at the battle of Shiloh in Tennessee the 6th and 7th of April 1862.</i></p>	
Colonel Madison Miller. Commanding Brigade	St. Colonel. J. V. Pratt
J. B. Houtts assistant surgeon	
<p><i>Live Officers Missing in action</i></p>	
Jonas Luman	Captain of Co "A"
Henry P. Shultz	Captain of Co "B"
George W. Wyckoff	Captain of Co "D"
Peter A. Vollenman	Captain of Co "H"
John P. Maxwell	Captain of Co "G"
William Cooper	Captain of Co "C" <i>separated & lost</i>
David A. Hudson	1st Lieut of Co "B"
Kenton D. Freeman	1st Lieut of Co "J"
William A. Grier	1st Lieut of Co "K"
Olin W. Dodge	2nd Lieut of Co "A"
Henry W. Goodpays	2nd Lieut of Co "C"
John A. McGee	2nd Lieut of Co "B"
Brester Bartinkamer	2nd Lieut of Co "H"
James J. Coddington	2nd Lieut of Co "J"
William A. Edgar	1st Lieut and adjutant
John B. Sharp	1st Lieut of Co "B"
Samuel S. Clark	Captain of Co "B"
E. W. Goodpays	Captain of Co "D"
John A. Taylor	1st Lieut of Co "A"
George W. Agnew	1st Lieut of Co "C"
Edward A. Connelly	1st Lieut of Co "B" <i>separated after battle</i>
Richard Hallis	2nd Lieut of Co "J"
David Solloc	2nd Lieut of Co "B"
<p><i>Major James A. Price's Resignation was accepted by Major General Halleck the 9th of July 1862</i></p>	
<p><i>Edmund A. Springer deserted 11th June 1862</i></p>	
<p><i>C. B. England was wounded and was not here long out yet returned</i></p>	
<p><i>Norman A. Hamlin Regimental Surgeon deserted</i></p>	

List of commissioned officers of the 18th Missouri Volunteer Infantry who were killed, wounded or went missing during the Battle of Shiloh. Missouri State Archives.

Spring/Summer 2015 Program Calendar

North Star, Southern Cross: The Cultural Politics of Civil War Memory in Missouri, 1865-1915 **April 30, 2015, 7 p.m.**

We tend to view the American Civil War as a conflict between two distinct cultures divided by the Ohio River; the South devoted to the protection of slavery as an institution, and the



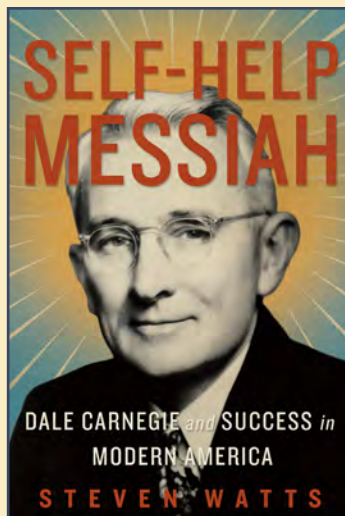
Soldiers' reunion, Mammoth Springs, Arkansas, c. 1908. Missouri State Archives.

North equally devoted to its abolishment. With its unique geography and political climate, Missouri was affected not only by this division, but also by a division

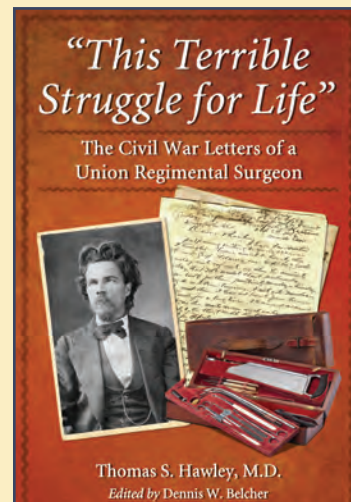
between the well-populated East and the less-populated western frontier region. In the decades following the war, Missourians, formerly considered "Westerners," took different paths through the politics of regional identity by re-narrating the war and themselves, evolving as Northerners, Southerners and, more complicatedly, Midwesterners. University of Cincinnati history professor Christopher Phillips will discuss how these factors helped shape the identity of modern Missourians.

Self-Help Messiah: Dale Carnegie and Success in Modern America **May 21, 2015, 7 p.m.**

Born into a meager Missouri farm family, Dale Carnegie lifted himself from poverty to become one of the most influential figures of his time. As a teacher and author during the first half of the 20th century, he emerged as America's foremost spokesman of success, insisting that in



modern urban, bureaucratic society, personal advancement came less from hard work and firm moral character than from the development of social skills and a sparkling personality. This compelling idea became the foundation for *How to Win Friends and Influence People* (1936), one of the best-selling nonfiction books in American history. Before Norman Vincent Peale, Stephen Covey and Oprah Winfrey, there was Dale Carnegie, the man *Life* magazine named one of "the most important Americans of the twentieth century." So while Thomas Jefferson coined that most American of phrases—"the pursuit of happiness," in many ways, Dale Carnegie defined its modern meaning. Join us as University of Missouri history professor Steven Watts tells the story of Carnegie's personal journey and how it gave rise to the self-help movement and personal reinvention.



"This Terrible Struggle for Life": The Civil War Letters of a Union Regimental Surgeon **June 18, 2015, 7 p.m.**

Edited by Civil War historian Dennis Belcher, *This Terrible Struggle for Life* offers a rare insight into the history of the Civil War in the Western theater through the eyes of a regimental surgeon. The newly graduated Dr. Thomas

S. Hawley served in one of the premier fighting regiments of the Union Army, the 11th Missouri Volunteer Infantry. The collection of letters details his four-and-a-half-year career in the army through firsthand accounts of the various campaigns and his numerous duties. They also chronicle his interactions with captured Confederate soldiers, his encounters with pro-Southern and pro-Northern civilians in areas occupied by the Union Army, his experiences with freed slaves and numerous other daily events in the war. Notable among the letters is his record of the early Civil War in Missouri, the Vicksburg Campaign, the Battle of Tupelo and the Battle of Nashville. Join Civil War historian Dennis Belcher as he shares details from Dr. Hawley's illuminating letters about the war in the West.

All programs will be held at the Missouri State Archives, 600 W. Main St., Jefferson City, Mo., and are free and open to the public.

Friends Annual Meeting



Nelly Don

Friends Annual Meeting *Nelly Don: A Stitch in Time* June 13, 2015, 11:30 a.m.

The 2015 Friends of the Missouri State Archives annual meeting will be held Saturday, June 13 at the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center in Jefferson City (600 W. Main St.). The business portion will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by a noon luncheon and program with author and filmmaker Terence O'Malley on famed Missouri dress designer and manufacturer Nell Donnelly Reed, or Nelly Don. Authentic Nelly Don dresses will also be modeled and on display.

Nelly Don was one of the first and most successful self-made women millionaires in American business. She designed and sold more dresses in the 20th century than any other person in the United States and challenged the notion that women were best suited for domesticity. O'Malley's book and documentary film of the same name, *Nelly Don: A Stitch in Time*, explore the life of this Kansas City woman of Irish heritage who started a dress making empire from her living room. During the course of her lifetime, she had an affair with U.S. Senator James A. Reed, was kidnapped and rescued by the Mafia, fought unions, made most of the service uniforms for women during World War II and was a pioneer in employees' rights and benefits. O'Malley will intersperse clips from the film throughout his presentation, bringing to life the legacy of one of the most captivating women in the history of American business and fashion.

This is a limited space, RSVP event. The cost is \$25 per person, payable at the door the day of the event or mailed to the Friends of the Missouri State Archives, P.O. Box 242, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102. For further information and to make reservations, call Brian Rogers at (573) 526-1981.



National Genealogical Society's 2015 Family History Conference

Genealogists of all skill levels will meet May 13-16 at the National Genealogical Society's 2015 Family History Conference in St. Charles. Each day features numerous tracks covering a broad array of topics, including records from Missouri and the surrounding states, migration into and through the Midwest, methodology, analysis, problem solving, genetics, technology, military records and lectures on locations ranging from Colonial America to Eastern Europe. The exhibit hall is free and open to the public Wednesday through Saturday. Register for the full conference today at <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/eventregistration>.

While there, don't forget to come by Booth 311 in the exhibit hall to visit with Missouri State Archives' staff!

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2015 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

CROSSROADS OF AMERICA
ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI
13-16 MAY 2015



Land Records at the Missouri State Archives

(continued from page 7)

- **U.S. Land Sales** (1818-1922): Abstracts of land sales in Missouri (27 volumes) are indexed in the Land Patent Database (www.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/land/). For cash, credit, pre-emption and homestead entries, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington, D.C. has most of the original applications and the final land patents are available online through the Federal Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) website (www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

- **Military Bounty Lands:** The Archives has abstracts of bounty land for Missouri veterans of the War of 1812 only. Records of bounty lands from other wars, including original applications, are found at NARA in Washington, D.C. Copies of the warrants are available online through the BLM website.

- **State Lands:** For certain purposes, such as funding schools and internal improvements, the federal government transferred a portion of its land to the State of Missouri to distribute. Most of these sales are indexed on the Archives website, including Seminary and Saline Land Patents (1820-1825); Township School Land Patents (1820-1900); Tax Deeds (1842-1878); 500,000 Acre Land Grants (1843-1951); Swamp Land Indemnities (1850-1945); and Railroad Land Grants (1867-1877).

For private claims in the old irregular boundaries, surveyors had to map them onto the newer rectangular system so the land could be properly identified to prevent conflicts with newer claimants. Henri Peyroux's lands ended up in Townships 36 and 37 North and Range 9 and 10 East as can be seen in the accompanying illustration.

Genealogists with ancestors who made early Missouri claims, and even those with later grants from the public lands, will want to mine the Archives for these gems—even if taken with a grain of salt!

Donations to the Friends of the Missouri State Archives

(November 1, 2014 - March 20, 2015)

THOMAS HART BENTON (\$500+)

Gene Bushmann, Jefferson City
Edward W. Dolata, St. Louis

Dred & Harriet Scott (\$250+)

Gary & Carol Collins, Jefferson City
Petra DeWitt, Rolla
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Terry & Linda Jehling, Jefferson City
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Jonathan Kemper, Kansas City
Cleo Kottwitz & Judy Parsons, Columbia
Ken E. Martin, Columbia
Christine McBryan, Franklin, TN
Jenna Mills, Archie
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